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# Dut at the Ranch

## The Hero

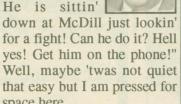
The other day I was reading that General Schwartzkopf was in town speaking at a seminar. No, not in Georgetown - in town -This Toronto. Schwarztkopf, just amazes me. He went from a rather obscure posting at a military air base in Florida to world class hero in a matter of

You know the old saying with a name like that - he had to be good. Just think of the hard time he had fighting his way through public school with a name like that. That would have been great training for a future hero.

You just have to like the guy. When you watch him on TV, talking to his own troops, UN officers, TV newsmen, newspaper reporters, prime ministers, presidents and kings - he carries it all like it was just another day in the army. Just another job for Stormin' Norman.

I was always told that it is great to be good but it also helps to be lucky. And though I have the highest respect for the General and his talents, I think he happened to be in precisely the right place at precisely the right time. 'Who do we send? How

about Norm? Where is he?



If you take a good hard look at what the guy accomplished you have to be impressed. To win the war is one thing. To get all that equipment, stores and troops into position and ready to fight was a modern miracle of logistics and supply.

I had a first hand look at some of the equipment on the move and it was something to see. We were driving to Florida when the first equipment started to move to Saudi Arabia. On I-75 in Ohio we passed U.S. Army truck convoys that were strung out for miles, already painted desert

On the beach at Dunedin, you could watch an almost continuous pattern of huge cargo aircraft flying in and out of McDill Field on Tampa Bay.

God forbid that the world gets into another tussle like Desert Storm but if it does, I just hope we have another guy just like Stormin' Norman to head up the good guys!

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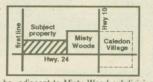


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# Down Come the

By George Perdue, B. Sc. P. Eng.

The central bank rates are falling again. It appears that the uncertainty induced by the referendum a few weeks ago has been absorbed by the market and the discount has been

Analysts expect the rate to fall again this week and this is being written before the referendum takes place.

This being the case, look for interest sensitive investments to rise again in the near term. People who have recently purchased bonds only to find their trading value decrease with the boost in interest rates required to support the sagging dollar, will now experience some relief.

How long will this last? The government has few alternatives to stimulate the economy. This is because of the enormous



Talk with George Perdue

Money



debt and the strain on cash reserves. They will probably use reduced interest rates to try to get the econorder to minimize the effects of inflation. Economists do not agree on the timing for this to happen. Most believe that this "bottoming" will occur anytime during the next year.

What do bond investors do? Those looking in the long term tend to hold their position. Those playing the interest rates in the shorter term are moving to shorter term investments and coupling their bonds with preferred shares. The idea here is to be more sensitive to the last decreases in the interest rates and to pick up performance from any improvements in the economy through the preferreds.

New investors who are interested in lower risk can put their money in money omy rolling. When the market funds and shorter economy shows positive term bonds. Since the signs the reduction in money market is extremely interest rates will cease in short term it follows the prevailing interest rate almost directly.

A new investor with some money market and some short term bond holdings is protected against interest rate swings since these investments work opposite to one another with respect to interest rates. This is not a bad option for this type of person when the interest rates are at or near the bottom in the business cycle.

George Perdue is a Financial Planner, Business Consultant, and Partner in Money Concepts, Halton Hills. He can be contacted at (416) 873-1877.